**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**S. 59**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator L. Martin

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Introduced in the Senate on January 11, 2011

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Traffic rules

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/1/2010 Senate Prefiled

12/1/2010 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/11/2011 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 31](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\01-11-11.docx))

1/11/2011 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 31](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\01-11-11.docx))

3/7/2011 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Rankin (ch), Campsen, Coleman, Davis, Nicholson

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/1/2010](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\59_20101201.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND ARTICLE 31, CHAPTER 5, TITLE 56 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TRAFFIC RULES, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑5‑3815, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DRIVE CARELESSLY AS A RESULT OF BEING DISTRACTED, TO DEFINE CARELESSLY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A FIFTY DOLLAR FINE WITH NO POINTS ASSIGNED.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 31, Chapter 5, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑5‑3815. (A) It is unlawful for a motor vehicle driver, while driving on a road, street, or highway of the State to drive carelessly as a result of reading, writing, personal grooming, interacting with passengers, pets or unsecured cargo, using a computer, using a wireless telephone, using personal communication technologies, or engaging in any other activity which causes the driver to be distracted.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘drive carelessly’ means operating a vehicle without care and caution and without full regard for the safety of persons or property.

(C) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined fifty dollars, no part of which may be suspended. Court costs, assessments, or surcharges may not be assessed against a person who violates a provision of this section, and no points, pursuant to Section 56‑1‑720, may be assigned to the driver.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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